The Aluminum Situation

A Monthly Publication of
The Aluminum Association, Inc., 818 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20006

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March, 1982

Domestic Shipments Down 13.1 Per Cent

Net shipments of aluminum ingot and mill products in January of 1982, at an estimated 879 million pounds were 20.2% less than shipments of 1,102 million pounds for January of 1981.

Domestic shipments totalled 791 million pounds for January of 1982, representing a decline of 13.1% from the 911 million pounds shipped in January of 1981.

Exports of 88 million pounds were down 53.7% vs. 191 million pounds for 1 month of 1981.

Thru January, 1982

	1 Mo. 1982	1 Mo. 1981	% Change
Mill Products	758	895	−15.2
Ingot	121	207	−41.6
Total	879	1,102	−20.2
Less Exports	−88	−191	−53.7
Domestic Total	791	911	−13.1

Millions of Pounds
Source: Latest month estimated by the Aluminum Association. Previous data—Bureau of the Census.

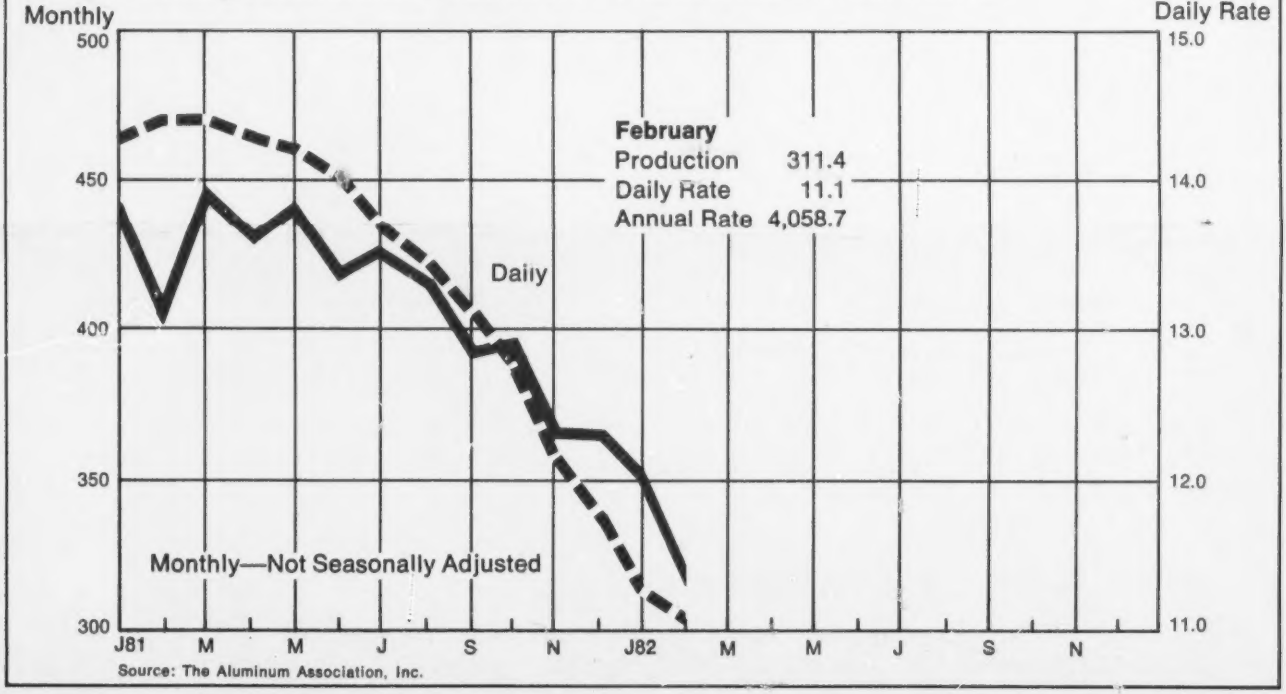
Primary Production Rate Down 23.0 Per Cent

U.S. primary aluminum production averaged 11,120 short tons daily during February, 1982, compared with an average 14,437 tons a day in February, 1981.

The annual rate of production in February, 1982 was 4,058,748 tons, compared to 5,269,362 tons in February, 1981. The January, 1982 production rate was 4,127,414 tons.

Actual production in February, 1982 was 311,356 tons. This compared with 404,225 tons in February, 1981 and 350,548 tons in January, 1982.

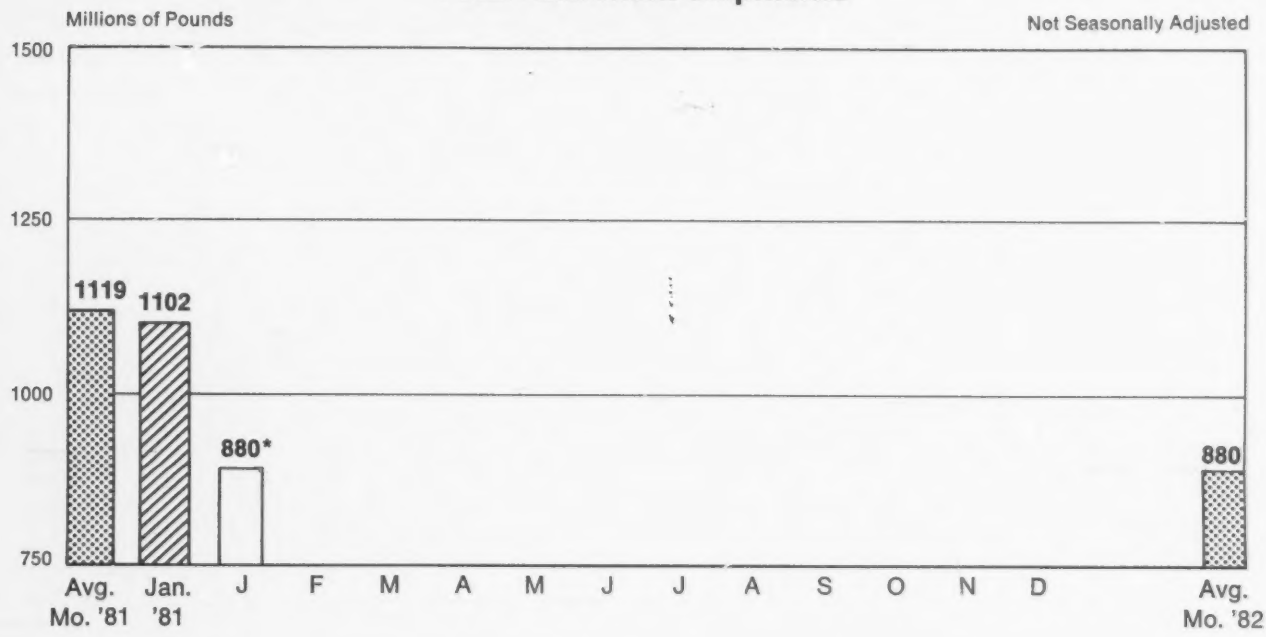
U.S. Primary Aluminum Production—Thousands of Short Tons



Source: The Aluminum Association, Inc.

Aluminum Association total industry estimates are based on information reported by members, which is aggregated by the Association and then expanded to total industry data utilizing an expansion ratio that attempts to reflect the relationship of reporters to the total industry. While the Association believes that its statistical procedures and methods are reliable, it does not warrant the accuracy or completeness of the data. All data contained herein are subject to revision.

Total Aluminum Shipments



Net Shipments
(Millions of Pounds)

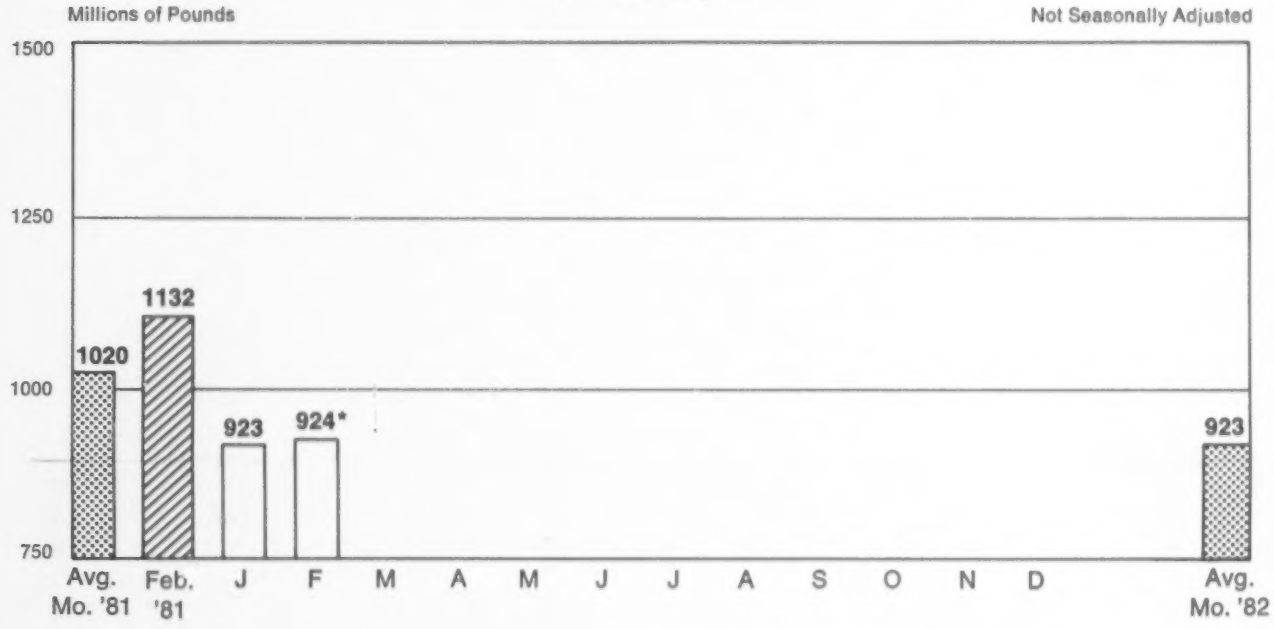
	1982 January*	1981 December	1981 January	% Change Latest Month 1982 v. 1981
Sheet & Plate	432.0	385.0	510.9	−15.4
Foil	67.0	63.0	74.6	−10.2
Rod, Bar & Wire	23.0	25.0	35.1	−34.5
Electrical Conductor	48.0	57.0	51.9	− 7.5
Extruded Products	157.0	133.0	177.5	−11.5
Welded Tube	4.0	4.0	14.4	−72.2
Powder & Pigments	6.0	8.0	5.9	+ 1.7
Forgings & Impacts	10.0	9.0	12.4	−19.4
Net Imports of Mill Products (Total) (a)	11.5	29.3	11.8	− 2.5
Total Mill Products	758.5	713.3	894.5	−15.2
Ingot	121.0(b)	252.0(b)	207.3	−41.6
TOTAL INDUSTRY SHIPMENTS	879.5	965.3	1,101.8	−20.2
Exports	(88.4)	(87.9)r	(191.0)	−53.7
TOTAL DOMESTIC SHIPMENTS	791.1	877.4r	910.8	−13.1

* Latest two months estimated by the Aluminum Association.
Previous data—Bureau of the Census and Department of Commerce.
(a) Not included in product data above.
(b) Sufficient data not available for reliable estimate. Implicit in this item is a 10 to 25% variation.
r-revised.

January Net Shipments Down 20.2 Per Cent

Total January, 1982 net shipments of 880 million pounds were down an estimated 20.2% vs. January, 1981. Domestic shipments were down 13.1% since exports dropped 53.7%

Order Receipts



Order Receipts
(Millions of Pounds)

	1982 February*	1982 January	1981 February	% Change Latest Month 1982 vs. 1981
Can Stock	227.1	248.6	215.4	+ 5.4
Sheet & Plate, Other	198.9	182.7	306.1	−35.0
Foil	53.9	65.0	69.9	−22.9
Rod, Bar & Wire	15.9	26.0	28.1	−43.4
Electrical Conductor	46.9	55.6	43.9	+ 6.8
Extruded Products	137.6	117.2	144.4	− 4.7
Primary Ingot	18.3	20.5	33.4	−45.2
Other (Including Secondary Ingot)	127.5	117.7	151.5	−15.8
TOTAL DOMESTIC	826.1	833.3	992.7	−16.8
Exports	97.7	89.6	139.7	−30.1
TOTAL ALL PRODUCTS	923.8	922.9	1,132.4	−18.4

Source: The Association estimates total industry orders, based on weekly reports by members of new orders (less cancellations) received. The Association expands these data to total industry utilizing an expansion ratio that attempts to reflect the relationship of reporters to the total industry. Weekly data are available upon request.

* Latest month.
r-revised.

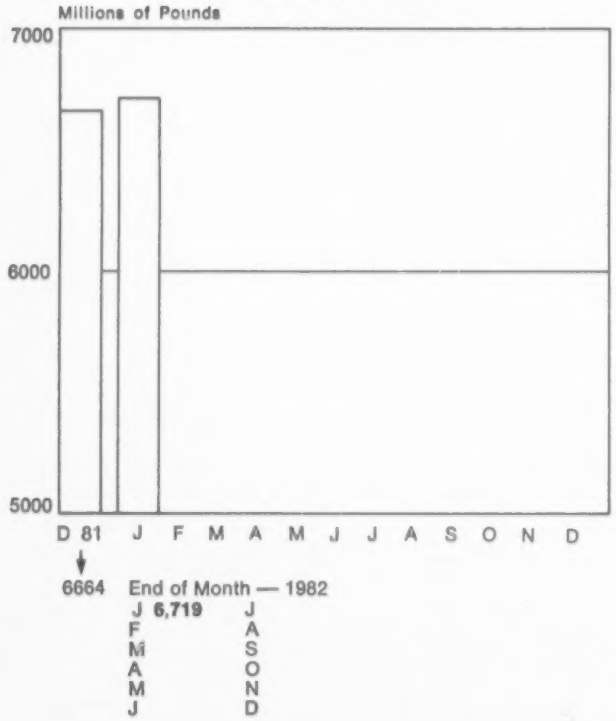
February Orders 18.4 Per Cent Less Than February, 1981

February order receipts at 924 million pounds were down 18.4% vs. February, 1981 orders of 1,132 million pounds. They were even with January of this year. Domestic orders were down 16.8% vs. a year ago.

Producers Stocks Up 55 Million Pounds

Producer inventories increased an estimated 55 million pounds in January, 1982 from an estimated 6,664 million pounds in December, 1981 to an estimated 6,719 million pounds, accounted for by integrated producers. Secondary smelters' and nonintegrateds' stocks together were estimated not to have changed.

Inventories



Producers Inventories
(Millions of Pounds)

Producers	Jan. '82*	Dec. '81*	Jan. '82 vs. Year End '81
Integrateds	5,632	5,577	+55
Smelters	255	255	—
Nonintegrated	832	832	—
TOTAL	6,719	6,664	+55

* Latest two months estimated by Aluminum Association. Previous data—Bureau of the Census. Inventories include ingot, mill products and scrap.

Imports and Exports
(Millions of Pounds)

		1982 January	1981 December	1981 January	% Change Latest Month 1982 v. 1981
Imports	Mill Products	38.3	30.2r	13.1	+192.4
	Ingot	76.6	98.7	111.5	− 31.3
	TOTAL	114.9	128.9r	124.6	− 7.8
	Scrap (+ dross)	9.1	8.7	6.8	+ 33.8
Exports	Mill Products	44.2	38.7r	72.2	− 38.8
	Ingot	44.2	49.2	118.8	− 62.8
	TOTAL	88.4	87.9r	191.0	− 53.7
	Scrap	37.7	36.4	46.1	− 18.2
Net Imports		(2.1)	+13.3r	(105.7)	+ 98.0

Source: Department of Commerce, Industry Trade Administration and Bureau of the Census. Excludes backed foil.